

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3760

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR ID CH

SUBJECT: MALIK "MISQUOTED" ON NORMALIZATION OF
INDONESIAN-PRC RELATIONS

1. ACCORDING JAKARTA PRESS REPORTS (INCLUDING STATE NEWS
AGENCY ANTARA), GOI FONMIN MALIK TOLD PRESS APRIL 8
INDONESIA WOULD LIKE TO ACCELERATE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS
WITH PRC. EVENING DAILY SINAR HARAPAN QUOTED MALIK AS SAYING,
IN RESPONSE TO REPORTER'S SUGGESTION THAT GOI APPEARED HAPPY
TO DELAY NORMALIZATION, THAT ON CONTRARY GOI'S VIEW WAS
"THE SOONER THE BETTER." MALIK COMMENTS MADE IN INFORMAL
EXCHANGE WITH PRESS FOLLOWING MEETINGS BETWEEN PRESIDENT
SUHARTO, MALIK AND VISITING MONGOLIAN FONMIN RICHIN.

2. STRAITS TIMES OF SINGAPORE IN APRIL 9 EDITION

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CIRCULATED IN JAKARTA GAVE PROMINENT FRONTPAGE TREATMENT TO

INFERENCE IN MALIK REMARKS OF CHANGE IN GOI POLICY ON NORMALIZATION WITH PRC. UNDER BANNER HEADLINE "CHINA: MALIK SURPRISE", TIMES CARRIED REUTERS STORY QUOTING MALIK AS CALLING FOR "IMMEDIATE" NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AND CONTRASTING THIS WITH USUAL GOI STATEMENTS THAT JAKARTA NOT YET READY TO NORMALIZE BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC SITUATION (I.E. OVERSEAS CHINESE PROBLEM).

3. MALIK'S SECRETARY AND PERSONAL STAFF CHIEF AMB. SOEMARIO TOLD AMBASSADOR APRIL 9 THAT MALIK REMARKS NOT INTENDED TO SIGNAL ANY CHANGE IN GOI POLICY ON RELATIONS WITH PRC (I.E. GOI IN NO HURRY TO NORMALIZE, AND IN ANY EVENT WOULD NOT DO SO BEFORE 1977 ELECTIONS). ACCORDING ANTARA, MALIK SAME DAY TOLD PRESS HE HAD MADE NO SUCH SUGGESTION OF EARLY RESUMPTION AS IMPLIED BY "CONFUSING REPORTS FROM ABROAD" AND RESTATED THAT DOMESTIC CONDITIONS DID NOT YET PERMIT NORMALIZATION AND THAT GOI STILL CONSIDERED PRC ATTITUDE TOWARDS INDONESIA AS IN DOUBT. SINAR HARAPAN QUOTED MALIK AS SPECIFICALLY DENYING MAKING STATEMENTS CITED IN STRAITS TIMES STORY, AND NOTED THAT REPORTERS PRESENT AT EARLIER INTERVIEW AGREED THEY HAD NOT HEARD REMARKS QUOTED BY TIMES.

4. COMMENT: MALIK, STILL IN SEMI-CONVALESCENCE FROM JAUNDICE ATTACK IN LATE FEBRUARY, REMAINS AS LOQUACIOUS -- AND PRONE TO "MISQUOTATION" -- AS EVER.
NEWSOM

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